

# Stories on Ground: What we saw



# Introduction

“Stories on Ground: What we saw” is a compilation of lived observations, experiences and reflection of young, Gen-Z election observers. While their formal observation notes and reports will contribute to electoral reforms and recommendations, this collection goes a step further as it captures the stories behind those recommendations. It seeks to humanize the data by offering a direct glimpse into what these observers saw, felt, and reflected during the election process. In doing so, it highlights the subtle yet significant nuances that often go unnoticed but are crucial to understanding the reality of elections and everything that could contribute to election integrity. At its core, this is also an effort to document and value those lived experiences.

In March 2026, Accountability Lab Nepal (ALN) launched an initiative to directly engage selected young people in the election observation process. Equipped with training and guidance, these observers approached the process with intention and curiosity. Their role extended beyond voters to observers and they participated in discussions, attended political gatherings, and actively gathered insights from the ground.

Through this compilation, you get to step briefly into the shoes of these observers, as they take you across different polling stations and communities in Nepal, offering a grounded perspective on the electoral process.

## Disclaimer



The observations and narratives presented in this compilation are based on individual, ground-level experiences of the observers and are not intended to target, single out, or defame any political party or actor. Any mention of specific parties or individuals is purely contextual, reflecting what was witnessed during the observation process. These accounts should be understood as descriptive insights rather than definitive judgments, and readers are encouraged to interpret them with appropriate context and discretion.



## Rachana Panthi

### About Rachana

- Law student; Mid-Western University
- Visited more than 12 polling stations during observation.
- A first time as a voter and election observer.
- Enjoys having public discussions and discourses on contemporary issues.

📍 Observation Areas: Kohalpur Municipality /Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City, Lumbini Province/Surkhet, Karnali Province

### Key Observation Moment

#### Moment-I

An auto-rickshaw pulled away, leaving a man in his 70s standing at the polling station, at Kohalpur. He moved slowly as his disability made every step toward the ballot box a challenge. As per the Election Commission rules, only a close relative is allowed to assist a voter inside the booth. But for him, the provision was not supportive as he was never married; had no children, and no immediate relatives. He stood there waiting, unsure of what to do because the rules did not account for a life spent alone. Beyond the formal papers, the physical world was just as unwelcoming as there were no ramps or wheelchairs to support mobility. After persistent consultation, the issue was finally solved when a neighbor who had just completed the voting process spotted him. He then, upon the approval of the election officer, was supported to cast vote.



## Moment-II

The politics here in Karnali is different than at other places; they are often grounded. While door-to-door campaigning was relatively limited, the environment was filled with constant noise, large rallies, gatherings, and visible political activity. With Surkhet as the provincial capital, it became a central hub for major party events, attracting high-profile leaders and large enthusiastic crowds (one example is the “Bishal Chunabi Sabha” organized by the Nepali Congress). However, what lingered most was not the event itself, but its aftermath. The area around Ghantaghar was left heavily littered with wrappers, bottles, pamphlets, T-shirts, and other discarded materials. The space lost its appeal under the sheer volume of waste. This moment was particularly striking, as it reflected how the Election Commission’s vision of a “green election” was largely disregarded in practice.



## Reflection and Takeaway

In practice, democracy is messy and true inclusion requires a lot of effort. Accessibility is not just a policy checkbox. Accessibility is more than having ramps at polling stations, it is about ensuring that every single voter, regardless of their physical condition or social support, can actually cast their vote. So it requires practical solutions, trained assistance, clear protocols and empathetic enforcement.

I have realized that election monitoring is a skill of training, patience, and integrity. Beyond simple observation, it requires knowledge of the law, the ability to remain impartial, physical endurance to cover multiple stations, and the judgment to identify what matters in the field. The overall experience has transformed me from a passive observer of democracy to an active participant in democratic accountability. It has given me practical knowledge, personal stories, and a deep motivation to continue working in this space for the future.

📍 Observation Areas: Dhanauji Rural Municipality, Ward-3, Dhanusha, Madhesh Province

## Key Observation Moment

### Moment-I

The visit by the leaders of RSP in Madhesh was probably the high turning point in setting the tone for the 2026 electoral campaign. The narrative of *“Madhesh ke beta pradhanmantri bante wahi laayek hum sab yei chunab main vote karte”* was everywhere. During the heat of this campaign, I came across a lot of campaign methods. A scene I witnessed was at a local tea shop with a half-shut shutter. There was no steam and tea, but the shop was filled with stacks of RSP posters and badges. Behind the counter were children, their hands full of pamphlets, eagerly handing them out to anyone who passed by. When asked the children about the presence there and why they were sharing the pamphlets they simply stated that they were helping and were not being “forced”. To the parents and neighborhood, this wasn't an ethical dilemma or a breach of campaign conduct; it was a festival. In their eyes, the engagement of children either in handing out pamphlets, or participating in the rally, or them voicing out the slogan out loud was merely about being part of this “election festival”.



## Jyoti Mandal

### About Jyoti

- Advocate
- Engaged in advocacy and social activism in Madhesh.
- Works under several intersections of youth, gender, culture and law.

## Moment-II

At Dhanusha booth, one of the most significant observations was on the conduct of a security personnel (unarmed) who was positioned near the exit of the polling center. He likely assumed that I did not understand Maithili, or simply did not consider my presence significant. I observed that he was unhesitant to comment on the appearance of women voters that walked by. The most jarring moment occurred when he approached a female voter who had just cast her ballot, requested her identification, and remarked that she looked good in her voter ID photograph before asking her to reveal her face. The woman, who was wearing a burkha, lifted only the upper portion of her covering. He then commented on her eyes and asked her to show her face once again. The voter had to repeatedly explain that she could not comply with his request. Fortunately, another election police officer witnessed the scene and reprimanded him for his conduct. Women like her must have been intruded similarly causing them an additional burden of unwanted attention while exercising their right to vote.



## Reflection and Takeaway

Looking back at the whole election process, one of the most unsettling things was that despite having huge female voters, the whole election process was seemingly catered to the male voters only. From campaigns to representation, the men dominated the field. If we look at the above case as an example, the polling stations were rarely encouraging for females. In order to ensure the meaningful participation of women in politics, at minimum it requires an intentional effort and approach to create an open and free space that enables the participation and safe expressions for women to talk and exercise about politics.

 Observation Areas: Damak Municipality, Jhapa, Koshi Province

## Key Observation Moment



## David Bhandari

### About David

- BIT Student
- First time voter and a growing politics enthusiast
- Closely observed electoral dynamics in Jhapa-5

A few days before the election during the pre-election phase, I overheard a conversation among four friends. They were casually discussing who to vote for. Three of them leaned toward the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), while one supported the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP). I observed each of them had their own reasons for why they were supporting their particular party. What stood out was not just their choices, but the fact that they were openly discussing politics, questioning, comparing, and trying to make sense of their vote.

On another day, a group of college students were returning from classes. They were excited and were planning to participate in the RSP's campaign event. They carried party flags, visibly energized by the atmosphere. Some of them began chanting and, in the process, made remarks criticizing the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (UML).

This quickly escalated to supporters from the other side who too were campaigning. They then filed the complaint to the police. The situation intensified to the point where a bus carrying the students was taken to the police station. Eventually, the police had reached out to the parents of those students and they were finally sent back home. The moment reflected both the enthusiasm and impulsiveness that can quickly escalate to tensions and conflict.

In contrast, there were also moments that reflected mutual respect in politics. A brief but meaningful interaction when Balendra Shah crossed paths with a candidate from the Nepali Congress. They greeted each other warmly. It was a small gesture, but it carried a sense of healthy democratic competition something often missing at the cadres level especially in a polarized environment.




Image: OnlineKhabar



## Reflection and Takeaway

Elections are not limited to voting day; they reflect an ongoing process of public participation, dialogue, and civic engagement. The growing involvement of youth signals an emerging aware group of young people who are willing to actively shape the political conversations and choices.

At the same time, election spaces remain volatile, where every practice whether it be positive practices or the irregularities are under the continuous public scrutiny and requires continued need for monitoring and accountability. In this context, respectful interactions among leading political actors play a crucial role in building public trust, reinforcing democratic values, and setting the tone for how campaigns unfold on the ground.

 Observation Areas: Putalibazar Municipality, Syangja, Gandaki Province

## Key Observation Moment

My experience as an election observer altered my perspective on the gap between political optics and the raw reality of the voting process. While social media played a massive role in shaping a positive narrative, the “field scenario” revealed a much more transactional and difficult environment. I witnessed political parties going to extreme lengths to secure a win, where the pre-election phase was dominated by the distribution of money, fuel for vehicles, and various other temptations to influence the masses. Youth mobilization, in particular, seemed to rely heavily on the incentives of money, food, and transport facilities rather than pure ideological alignment.

One specific incident that will stay with me is when an elderly woman who, after walking over an hour on foot, realized she had forgotten her eligible voting document. Due to the distance and the lack of any organized transport or support system, there was no way for her to go home and return; she was simply left without an option to vote. This highlighted a heartbreaking lack of empathy in our electoral design.

Furthermore, I noticed a widespread deficiency in voter education. If students and youth were confused about the process, it is impossible to expect that the elderly could vote confidently according to their true intentions. These experiences convinced me that for an election to be truly transparent and fair, we must shift our focus from just managing the “event” to actually respecting and facilitating the human beings who make democracy possible.



image: AI



## Dhiraj Pariyar

### About Dhiraj

- Law student
- Youth activist and a dedicated social mobilizer.



## Reflection and Takeaway

I observed a complex and often contradictory reality regarding how youth and Gen Z engaged with the election. Social media acted as a powerful “mindset architect” implying a dual toned digital environment of both excitement and misinformation. I realized that while we often focus on the mechanics of voting, our election machinery is not yet efficient enough to address the real problems on the ground. There is a significant gap in civic sense and public awareness regarding the true power of a vote.

The whole electoral process was "election-focused" rather than being decentered around the voters. The tendency of parties to rely on money, fuel, and food to mobilize the masses shows that we still have a long way to go in developing a mature political culture. My perspective has changed from seeing an election as a purely administrative event to seeing it as a deeply human process that requires better infrastructure, more honest communication, and a much higher level of civic education.

📍 Observation Areas: Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Madhesh Province

## Key Observation Moment

### Moment-1

A powerful narrative had emerged around Balendra Shah, who symbolized a break from entrenched political culture tied with a growing appeal of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP). Youth engagement moved beyond discussion: from cities to their villages with a sense of mission to influence their families, mobilize communities, and expand their collective voice to a historic opportunity for change. This can be marked as a unique blend of optimism and urgency, where voting was framed not merely as a civic duty but as a generational responsibility.

While my overall observation of the election remains that it was largely peaceful and relatively conflict-free on polling day, some incidents have changed my perception. For instance, in Parsa district, three youths were apprehended carrying a pig's head along with materials suspected for bomb-making and crackers. This incident showcased how symbolic provocation and potential violence can be strategically used to incite communal tension and disrupt social harmony during sensitive electoral periods.

Likewise in Janakpur, Dhanusha-3, supporters linked to the Rastriya Swatantra Party were reportedly broadcasting a restricted BBC documentary. They were using the vehicles with LED screens and Indian number plates, mobilizing across different villages. Multiple vehicles were allegedly involved and few of the individuals were taken into custody. This activity took place during the silent period.



## Diwakar Upreti

### About Diwakar

- Founder of Kayapalat, a youth-led organization that works to promote good governance.
- Has a wide and extensive network and a critical lens on the governance and polity.

## Moment-II

This is the scenario of the Federal Election 2026 of Nepal. People were enthusiastically participating in the voting process at Jabdhi booth of Sarlahi. The voters, the party cadres, and the security were present in the premises of the polling station. At around 15:10 PM we heard a loud noise creating a quick panic among the people there. It turns out that the children in the area were cracking the firecrackers that echoed through the polling center. The noise was then heard every few minutes. They must have cracked an estimate of 2/3 crackers within 2 hours. It wasn't a protest or a riot; it was simply the local children playing, turning a high-stakes political day into their playground.

While harmless in intent, there was a certain shift in the atmosphere, the noise had created subtle tension in the polling station. The last noise (also the loudest of all) was heard around 15:15 pm. During this time only 55.73% of votes was casted.



## Reflection and Takeaway

This experience helped me understand that elections are not just a one-day voting activity, but a complete process shaped by people's behavior, local dynamics, and social realities. Moreso, as the engagement of Gen-Z across these election phases reflected that this generation is not apathetic, but rather intensely invested in shaping the political future of Nepal. Their journey from hopeful anticipation to active participation and finally to critical reflection underscores a significant shift in youth political behavior. While their expectations may at times be idealistic, their willingness to question, engage, and hold power accountable suggests a growing democratic awareness that could play a transformative role in the country's governance landscape in the years to come.



Observation Areas: Social Media Platforms



## Key Observation Moment

While most of our cohort members were busy observing the polling station at the ground, we were particularly interested in the things that were in the digital space. It is no news to say that the 2026 election was fought equally on digital fortresses as much as on the ground. Each and every candidate tried their best to maximize their reach in the digital space either by sharing their visions, sharing the ground works in social platforms. Some had very organic reach and engagement while few of them were seen using the meta ads to maximize the reach as well. The campaigns of the candidates were used by the meme and troll pages across different social media pages adding humor to the campaign and keeping the things interesting. The pages were also in the rush to share the breaking and unique news often leading to misinformation and disinformation.

One interesting case of such digital rivalry was seen among the candidates of Bhaktapur-02; between Mahesh Basnet and Rajiv Khatri. Both of them were very active during the campaign period. Their post showed high numbered engagement as well. However, the engagement on Rajiv Khatri's posts tells a very strange story. Every post hit a perfect, uniform 10,000 reactions. But as you look into the "likes" it's actually a sea of "Haha" or the "Angry" emojis. When you clicked on the profiles of those reacting, the names and faces weren't from the alleys of Bhaktapur; they were accounts from across the globe, profiles that had likely never heard of the RSP or the CPN-UML. Parallel anomalies included K. P. Sharma Oli gaining over 200,000 followers in a single day and repeated short-burst engagement patterns, indicating possible coordinated inauthentic behavior.

## Shubha , Roshan and Anuj

### About

- Students of Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence at Sunway International College
- Keen about the tech and AI and how it can contribute to promoting good governance



## Reflection and Takeaway

### Shubha Raj Karki

My understanding of elections remains beyond traditional voting and counting. I learned that elections today are hybrid processes, combining physical voting with digital campaigning and narrative control. Platforms like Facebook play a major role in influencing voters through targeted ads and content, while misinformation spreads faster than official verification, making information integrity a key challenge. My perspective shifted from seeing elections as procedural events to understanding them as information battles, where perception can be as important as actual results.

### Roshan Kapali

I see myself actively engaged and involved in promoting fair elections. Further I have developed the habit of fact-checking information, and participating in discussions on governance and reform. I also find myself constantly seeking political updates, specifically focusing on how the newly formed government plans to operate and execute its projects and agendas, especially when I have learnt and am informed about their agenda and promises during this time period.

### Anuj Bhusal


As a core team member involved in the online monitoring and tracking of digital campaigns for candidates and political parties, the digital space was overwhelming. The volume of content made it challenging to keep up and maintain effective tracking. I imagine the general public, simply consuming this content on social media, must have also felt exhausted. The overload of information, the prevalence of misinformation, and the effort required to fact-check were significant burdens. This trend is only expected to intensify in the future. I believe there is the need for better preparation and the critical importance of giving the digital space and campaign monitoring the attention it truly requires.



## Nishant Dhungana

### About Nishant

- Journalist, writer, translator, and human rights activist from Biratnagar.

 Observation Areas: Morang, Sunsari to Jhapa, Koshi Province

## Reflection

The compliance with the electoral code of conduct appeared contradictory in practice. Restrictions such as limitations to participation of leaders in door-to-door campaigns and limited use of vehicles, flags, and campaign materials seemed relevant only to the independent candidates, for larger parties' campaigns were openly violating these mandates. Yet I did not observe an active enforcement action taken by the Election Commission. So I was at Jahada Rural Municipality; I also witnessed concerns related to voter privacy and education. A few voters who were unable to properly fold their ballots approached polling officials for assistance, which unintentionally exposed their votes to nearby individuals. This incident revealed the gaps in voter education and raised concerns about the protection of voting secrecy at such a critical stage of the electoral process.

Another experience I had was when a party candidate was directly asked questions about his personal and party agenda by the Student Union, a sister organization of Nepali Congress. The dialogue happened in a closed-door setting where students engaged energetically and actively in challenging the leaders with probing questions and holding them accountable throughout the discussion.


As a student of political science, observing the elections and its procedures excited me. I firmly believe that the citizens express their stake in the state through elections and it is the responsibility of the state to facilitate a non-partisan environment where each entity is treated equally. In getting the chance to learn the aspects of the election in three phases, I have realized that institutions like the ECN must build stronger mechanisms to track, monitor, evaluate and transform the existing election observation system while consciously flagging the anomalies where necessary.



## Sandesh Adhikari

### About Sandesh

- Social activist
- Political enthusiast
- Practices journalism and
- other volunteering activities in Bharatpur

 Observation Areas: Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan, Bagmati Province



## Reflection

While observing the electoral ethics, I gathered several aspects of political conduct in Nepal. Clear violations were visible across the use of T-shirts, logos, badges, caps and bags. Numbers and sizes of campaign banners were excessively high and attempted influence to voters by the political parties was also seen. Local networks such as mothers' groups were used to distribute sarees and other incentives. Additionally, the campaign of Nepal Communist Party relied on extensive use of celebrities, artists and musical performances with the objective of attracting the young voters. Despite these efforts, youth appeared alert and cautious, openly rejecting manipulative practices like vote buying.


Overall, I used to associate the elections mainly with voting and results. However, this engagement helped me understand elections as a multi-dimensional and a sensitive system of democracy. I learned the significance of transparency, fairness, and inclusivity to maintain electoral integrity. Elections as a means of building public trust requires the roleplay of several factors. I realized that misinformation, rumors or political polarization cause major threats to free and fair elections. So addressing these challenges requires active citizen participation, awareness, and a sense of responsibility from all.



## Santosh Bhandari

### About Santosh

- Journalist
- Executive editor leading integrated multimedia and communications.

 Observation Areas:  
Birendranagar-Ward-8, Surkhet,  
Karnali Province

## Reflection

In my observation, Gen-Z and young voters appeared largely enthusiastic and optimistic about the electoral process. Many, especially first-time voters, actively visited polling centers to exercise their democratic right. There was also a clear rise in awareness driven by social media and peer networks. Their aspirations for change, improved governance, and better employment opportunities were also evident. However, some also expressed frustration with the established political system.

Another takeaway from this election is the persistent gaps in accessibility within the electoral process. In speaking with a visually impaired voter at Birendranagar, he shared that despite assurances, private voting was not possible because he had to be accompanied by an assistant while voting. So without targeted amenities for people with disabilities like him, he expressed that the confidentiality of voters like him was compromised. He suggested that the use of accessible solutions such as tactile ballot papers or digital voting machines such as those existing abroad should also be introduced in Nepal.

To conclude, electoral inclusion I think is not only about physical access to polling stations but also about dignity, privacy and equal independence which is ensured to every voter and especially those with disabilities. While the electoral period was peaceful and calm, we should not forget to acknowledge the frustration of inaccessibility that several voters have continued to experience in each electoral cycle.



## Sumita Kumal

### About Sumita

- BA Student
- First-time observer
- Involves in volunteering and social service as a member of BAS Nepal

 Observation Areas: Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City, Banke, Lumbini Province



## Reflection

I witnessed young people becoming more aware, cautious, and curious about the election, demonstrating that they were not merely “personalizing” the process but internalizing it as a broader democratic mandate. From questioning candidates about their agendas during campaigns to critically discussing political narratives within formal and informal spaces, youth have become conscious about their rights. Youth participation appeared vibrant, energetic, and thoughtful throughout the election.

However, one aspect that seemed overlooked was the maintenance of cleanliness at polling sites. Although polling centers across Nepal were largely set up within school infrastructures, the arrangements made by the Election Commission were managed only until the completion of voting. After coming across a social media post by a school teacher highlighting unmanaged waste left at a polling station, I visited the site myself and observed that post election cleaning and restoration of the school premises had not been adequately addressed.

My reflection remains largely on how vital transparency, fairness, and discipline are during an election. This whole experience has changed my outlook of the election for the better. I am now inspired to act beyond a mere spectator and become an informed and responsible citizen using fact-based and correct choices.

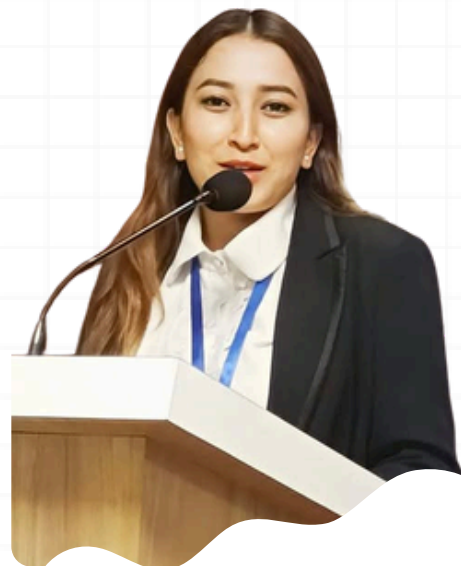


## Reflection

Through this experience, I have come to understand that the electoral process is not just about voting. It is a systematic and accountable process where the roles of government authorities, security personnel, observers and citizens are all vital in ensuring the fairness and transparency of the election. During the pre election period, I participated in inter-generational dialogues and public meet ups which showcased that electoral integrity was not entirely dysfunctional. Gen Z youths actively raised concerns and queries on security arrangements, voter education, misuse of children and inclusive access for all voters. Although the overall pre-election scenario remained mostly controlled, conventional campaign practices such as large rallies, excessive use of vehicles and attempts to influence voters still persisted. Challenges such as social media misinformation, voter manipulation and low civic awareness among communities was also there.

In the post election period, youths denoted optimism with great caution expressing that the government still has time to prove itself to the public. I think youths have directly and indirectly shown that the new leadership is under their constant watch in formal and informal rhetorics. My aspirations for the upcoming elections is for the government to make intentional efforts to integrate digitization throughout the electoral period by adopting transparent and integrated technological systems across campaigning, voter registration, and election day management. I hope the democratic process becomes less intrusive, reduces civic confusion, improves efficiency, and promotes a more environmentally sustainable electoral practice.

Following this experience, I am eager to actively contribute by empowering the youth, disseminating accurate information and raising awareness about the significance of voting and plan to engage in community and online discussions and ensure a true and verified fact-based ecosystem.



## Ramita Shah

### About Ramita

- Experience in community facilitation and monitoring.
- Member of BAS Nepal Banke




Observation Areas:  
Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City, Banke, Lumbini Province



## Israphil Gadi

### About Israphil

- Law student with avid interest in constitutional and policy reform
- RTI activist

 Observation Areas: Sainamaina Municipality, Rupadehi, Lumbini Province



## Reflection

There were many assumptions about the elections and their outcomes. A two-thirds parliamentary majority was beyond imagination for youths like me, yet it was ultimately confirmed that in a democracy, almost anything is possible. Significantly, this election has largely challenged my perceptions of identity politics. Previously, I believed that the electoral success was largely dependent on a candidate's ethnic or regional background. But seeing a candidate from a Hill background secure a massive majority in Madhesh-majority constituency, proved that voters have prioritized the true merits of candidates over their traditional biases in this election.

While I was mostly optimistic about this election, the rate of inclusiveness in the outcome of this election cycle raises a critical concern of whether "inclusivity" and "marginalization" have become concepts limited solely to the Proportional Representation (PR) system. This time as well, representation of leaders from Dalit, Muslim, and Musahar communities in direct contests suggests that the true spirit of inclusive democracy still remains unfulfilled in the FPTP model.


So this difference has led me to a dilemma: is the proportional system indirectly discouraging diversity in the diverse Nepali ethnicities or is there a primary issue in the competence of the direct election system to provide an equal opportunity for all.



## Ganga Bhandari

### About Ganga

- Youth activists
- Decade of experience working in the sector of good governance and accountability
- Journalist

 Observation Areas: Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City, Kailali, Sudurpaschim Province



## Reflection

In having the opportunity to closely understand Nepal's electoral system, I have had a stronger sense of awareness to the sensitivity of the election period and the ethical responsibilities and risks surrounding elections. Although I was unable to attain official accreditation, my observation from the periphery allowed me to generate a careful and grounded observation of the youth behavior in the field.

As I observed youth and party leaders gathered at polling sites on election day, I was struck by the absence of the usual political tension. We often perceive politics as a battle of "who is better" or "who will win". But that competitive edge seemed missing on the ground of Dhangadhi. Voters and the public interacted calmly, sharing a cooperative spirit and engaging in open conversations regardless of their party affiliation. What stood out most was the discipline and peaceful conduct of young people, even in the heat of the election.

I also observed that the election challenged conventional assumptions on political leadership. It was apparent that years of experiences, lengthy rhetorics or political struggle are not the sole definitive indicators of leadership. Leaders with clear agendas that respond to public needs could resonate to the public without excessive speechmaking. This time, voters also demonstrated a growing political maturity by exercising their political rights based on personal judgement and conscience. Overall, I have a deeper appreciation for the complexities of electoral participation and the importance of observation in promoting free, fair, and transparent elections in Nepal.



## Accountability Lab Nepal

The 2026 March election was an important opportunity for ALN to engage more directly in the electoral process. While previous engagements had largely focused on information integrity, voter education, and creating discourse, this time the experience expanded into election monitoring, facilitation, convenings on democratic accountability around the electoral process, and collaborating closely with innovative young people. For the ALN team, it became both a meaningful and energizing journey. Through mobilizing and guiding youth observers across the country in electoral observation, the team along with the Gen-Z monitors were able to document, transcribe, and better understand the electoral environment across all provinces of Nepal within a short period of time.

Members of the ALN team also took on multiple roles themselves participating as election observers, coordinating with other observer organizations, supporting call centre operations, and contributing wherever needed throughout the process.

From the orientation sessions to the actual deployment of monitors in their respective areas, enthusiasm gradually escalated within the ALN team. The process involved verifying media inputs with the monitors, deliberating accreditation procedures, collaborating with partners to ensure safety and logistical support of monitors and maintaining the confidence and consistency of reports of monitors in all three phases of election.

